



**STATE OF MONTANA
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
POLICY DIRECTIVE**

Policy No. DOC 4.5.7	Subject: OFFENDER WORKERS IN HEALTH CARE UNITS
Chapter 4: FACILITY/PROGRAM SERVICES	Page 1 of 2
Section 5: Health Care for Secure Facilities	Effective Date: Aug. 1, 1997
Signature: /s/ Bill Slaughter, Director	Revision Date: April 18, 2006

I. POLICY

The Department of Corrections prohibits the use of offenders as health care workers in Department and contracted facility health care units.

II. APPLICABILITY

The secure facilities that include Riverside and Pine Hills Youth Correctional Facilities, Montana State Prison, Montana Women's Prison, and the private and regional facilities contracted to the Department of Corrections.

III. REFERENCES

- A. *ACA Standards for Juvenile Correctional Facilities, 2003*
- B. *National Commission on Correctional Health Care Standards for Health Services in Prisons, 2003*
- C. *Montana Nurse Practice Act*

IV. DEFINITIONS

Chief Facility Health Officer – The health authority or nursing supervisor responsible for the facility health care services.

Chief of Security – The staff person, regardless of local title (security major, director of operations), designated by the facility administrator to manage the facility security program.

V. DEPARTMENT DIRECTIVES

A. Offender Assignments

1. An offender may be permitted to:
 - a. provide assistance in the facility health care unit (e.g., cleaning the floor) under the direct, visual supervision of custody staff;
 - b. assemble blank health care record folders under the direct supervision of facility health care or custody staff; and
 - c. work in facility dental labs under direct supervision.
2. The chief facility health officer, classification staff, and chief of security, or designees, will conduct periodic reviews of offender worker placements in health care units.

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B. Security Precautions

1. Each facility will develop security procedures to ensure that offenders do not have access to:
 - needles
 - syringes
 - sharps
 - medications
 - offender health care records or files
 - other prohibited items
2. Security precautions will include:
 - a. appropriate inventory procedures; and
 - b. required supervision and routine searches of all offenders working in the health care unit.

VI. CLOSING

Questions concerning this policy should be directed to the Department medical director or health services bureau chief.